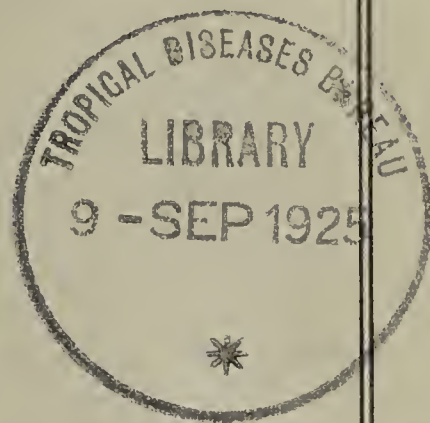


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Borough of Southwold

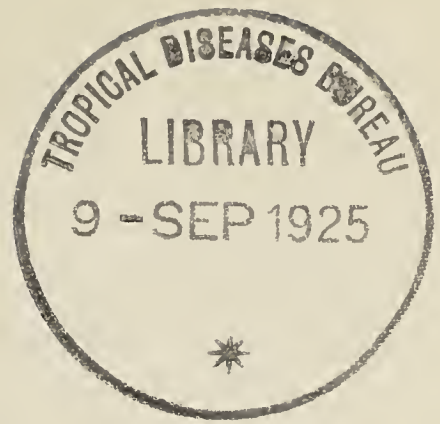


THE
ANNUAL REPORT
UPON THE
HEALTH & SANITARY CONDITION
OF THE
BOROUGH OF SOUTHWOLD
For the Year ending December 31st, 1924

By DUDLEY W. COLLINGS,

Medical Officer of Health for the Borough.





ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

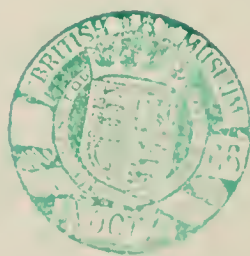
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

BOROUGH OF SOUTHWOLD

1924.

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THE MEDICAL REPORT

FOR THE

BOROUGH OF SOUTHWOLD.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE
BOROUGH OF SOUTHWOLD.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my report for the year 1924.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The Parish of Southwold, 647 acres in extent, is practically an island, being bounded by the North Sea, the River Blyth and the Buss Creek. Apart from bridges and the Ferry, its sole connection with the adjoining parish of Reydon is by a strip of beach which is liable to flood at very high tides.

A considerable portion of the parish is taken up by Marshland and the Common, thus sharply limiting any great possibility of extension of the town itself.

The main portion of the town is about 40 feet above the sea, while the marshes are below high-water level. The soil is gravel and sand and the roads dry quickly after rain.

The water supply was formerly derived from wells and owing to the proximity of the sea the water was slightly brackish. In 1909, however, a new source was found in Reydon, from which an unlimited supply of water is obtained. The water is rather hard but pure and palatable. A recent analysis is given on page 5 of this report.

At the present time the sole industries of the town are 'longshore fishing and the manufacture of knitted goods (Southwold Homeknit).

VITAL STATISTICS FOR YEAR 1924.

Area of the Parish of Southwold—647 acres.

Rateable Value £17,373

Sum represented by a penny rate = £71

Population of Southwold, 1921 *2783

**3370

1922 *2788

1923 *2783

1924 *2810

Number of Inhabited Houses (1921) **716

„ „ Families or separate occupiers (1921) **737

BIRTHS.

Legitimate 13 males 18 females .. total 31

Illegitimate 1 „ 0 „ .. „ 1

14 18 32

The Birth-rate 11.38 per 1000

„ Legitimate Birth-rate .. 11.03 „

„ Illegitimate „ .. .35 „

BIRTH-RATE, 1924.

England & Wales .. 18.8 per 1000. Total population.

London 18.7 „ „ „

Southwold 11.38 „ „ „

DEATHS.

Of residents, whether occurring within or without

the district 29

Death-rate 10.32 per 1000

„ England and Wales .. 12.20 per 1000

„ London 12.10 per 1000

DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGES.

Under 1 year 1

1 year and under 2 years 1

2 „ 3 „ 1

15 „ 20 „ 2

20 „ 35 „ 1

35 „ 45 „ 1

45 „ 65 „ 6

65 „ 70 „ 2

Over 70 14

Total 29

Deaths from Measles (all ages)

„ Whooping Cough (all ages) } Nil.

„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) }

*Registrar General's Returns.

**Census, 1921. This includes visitors and pupils at Schools.

WATER SUPPLY.

On August 10th, 1923, a sample of water was taken and submitted to Messrs. Thresh & Beale for examination. They reported as follows :—

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES.

91 Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C. 4.

Physical, Chemical and Bacteriological data relating to a sample of water received on August 11th, 1923, from Southwold Water Co., labelled "Alder Carr" Pumping Station, 10.30 a.m. Date August 10th, 1923.

All results in parts per 100,000.

Turbidity	.. ..	Clear and bright, no deposit.
Colour	.. ..	Faint Green Tint.
Odour	.. ..	None.
Reaction	.. ..	Neutral.
Total Solids. 180° C.	..	44.0
Chlorine in Chlorides	..	3.9
Nitrogen in Nitrates	..	0.46
Nitrites or Free Chlorine		Absent.
Hardness, Permanent		8.5
Temporary		21.5
Total		30.0
Lead, Copper, Zinc, Iron		Absent.
Free Ammonia	..	0.0010
Albuminoid Ammonia	..	0.0020
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37° C.	..	0.0100
Number of Bacteria per c.c.—		
On Gelatine in 3 days		49.
On Agar in 24 hours		7.
The Bacillus Coli	..	Absent in 100 c.c.
The Bacillus enteritidis		
Sporgenes	..	do.

REPORT—This is a hard water of the highest degree of bacterial and organic purity.

It is a pure and wholesome water.

(Signed)

JOHN C. THRESH and JOHN F. BEALE.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Not opened during the year, as there were no cases notified of Infectious Diseases requiring isolation.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

Samples have been taken and analysed, but no prosecutions have been found necessary.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

No cause for complaint has been found in connection with the one Slaughter House in the Borough.

NUISANCES.

The following is a list of the nuisances dealt with during the year.

Premises with defective drains	..	..	4
„ „ stopped „	.	..	14
„ „ defective water closets	..	..	6
„ „ dirty „ „	..	..	12
„ „ drains with defective ventilation	..		3
„ „ defective or deficient water trough-			
ing or down pipes	..		10
„ „ defective waste pipes	..	..	5
„ „ dilapidated or without dustbins	..		25
„ „ leaky roofs	..	..	6
„ „ damp walls	..	..	4
„ „ defective water closet cisterns	..		7
Offences from deposits of refuse	..	..	7
			<hr/>
			103

COMMON LODGING HOUSE.

The common Lodging Honse, in High Street, is satisfactorily kept, and has given no cause for complaint during the year.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are only 2 Factories in the town, both of these are excently kept. There are no Laundries. The Bakehouses and Workshops have been periodically inspected; only minor defects were found, and these, on representation to the owners or occupiers, were immediately remedied.

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of
Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	6	—	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	19	—	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	16	—	—
Total	41	—	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	2	2		
Want of ventilation	1	1		
Overcrowding	—	—		
Want of drainage of floors	—	—		
Other nuisances	7	7		
Sanitary accommodation :				
insufficient	1	1		
unsuitable or defective	1	1		
not separate for sexes	1	1		
			nil	nil
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:—</i>				
Illegal Occupation of under- ground bakehouse (s. 101)	—	—		
Other offences (Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections men- tioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)	—	—		
Total	13	15	—	—

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts,

PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

For practical purposes the Southwold Harbour is unused except by the local 'longshore fishing boats, a few pleasure yachts in Summer, and a small but variable number of sailing barges, conveying coal, road materials, etc. The latter, if not from English Ports, are from Belgium. The risk of the importation of Infectious Disease by water is therefore very slight as no passengers are landed.

The Corporation Official Rat-catcher periodically visits the Harbour and poisons the rats. There is no record of the number of rats destroyed, as by the use of poison it is not possible to trace this; but there is no doubt that the methods employed by the Council's Rat-catcher are very efficient.

AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT SANITARY DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR 1924.

	Number.	Regis- tered Tonnage.	Number inspected.		Action required.
			By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Sanitary Inspector	
FOREIGN {	Steamers	—	—	—	—
	Sailing	6	452	4	—
	Motor	1	103	1	—
Total Foreign		7	555	5	2
ENGLISH {	Steamers	—	—	—	—
	Sailing	3	196	2	2
	Motor	—	—	—	—
Total Coastwise		3	196	2	2
Total Foreign and Coastwise		10	751	7	4

HOUSING.

I must again draw the attention of the Council to the urgent need of additional housing accommodation within the Borough. As stated in my last annual report, the provision of houses requires the most serious consideration of both the Corporation and the private individual. In an old town such as Southwold there are of necessity a number of houses which are, through age, environment or other causes, unfit for habitation. Other dwellings, also, require considerable structural repairs to bring them up to modern standards. The work of renovation is impracticable until the present occupants can be provided with alternative accommodation. In addition there are cases in which the tenant is under notice to quit as their house is required by the owner for other purposes such as its conversion into business premises.

There are also a number of families who, through poverty or other reasons are unable to pay an economic rent—their present rent charges being from 2/6 5/- per week. In some cases the amount stated includes rates. How to deal with these cases is one of the greatest problems of the Housing Question.

There is no doubt that the shortage of dwellings has been accentuated by the number of small cottages previously occupied by the working classes, purchased by visitors or speculators who convert them into furnished week-end or summer residences. The result is that during a large portion of the year these houses remain unoccupied and are not available for residents.

This is a matter that can only be dealt with by new legislation as local authorities have at present no powers to interfere.

At the present time the Council have in hand a scheme, approved by the Ministry of Health, for the assisting of private enterprise in the erection of Houses, under the Housing, etc., Act (1923), they are enabled to subsidise builders and others to the extent of a State Grant of £75 per house plus an additional grant from the Local Authority which has been fixed at £25, making a total grant of £100 per house.

Time alone will show how far under these conditions private enterprise will go to remedy the shortage of suitable cottages. Failing this, it will no doubt devolve on the local Authority to make good the deficiency.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Statistics for year ended December 31st, 1924.

1.—GENERAL.

Five houses have been erected during the year (all non-assisted).

2.—UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

I.—INSPECTION.

1. Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 56
2. Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 39
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 2
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-headings) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 11

II.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

- Number of defective dwelling-houses repaired as far as possible under existing circumstances 11

III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. *Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.*

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 0
2. Number of dwelling - houses which were rendered fit by owners 0
3. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close 0

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 18
2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied by owners 15

BIRTHS.

	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
Boys Legitimate	16	28	19	24	20	13
Boys Illegitimate	2	3	0	1	1	1
Girls Legitimate	21	26	14	20	14	18
Girls Illegitimate	1	0	1	1	0	0
Total Births Legitimate	37	54	33	44	34	31
Total Births Illegitimate	3	3	1	2	1	1
Total Birth Rate per 1000	17	23.3	12.22	16.5	12.57	11.38
Legitimate	15.8	22.1	11.85	15.78	12.21	11.03
Illegitimate	1.2	1.2	.36	.72	.36	.35

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Cases of Infectious Disease during the years 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923 and 1924.

	1920		1921	1922		1923		1924	
	Diph-theria	Scarlet Fever	Scarlet Fever	Diph-theria	Pulm. Tub.	Scarlet Fever	Diph-theria	Scarlet Fever	Diph-theria
January	1	1	..	..	..	..	.
February		
March	..	1	..	..	1	..	..
April		
May	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
June	nil	nil
July	2*	..	1	..		
August	1*	..	..	..	1		
September		
October		
November		
December		
Totals	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	nil	nil

Total cases notified	1920	..	4
"	1921	..	1
"	1922	..	3
"	1923	..	2
"	1924	..	0

* These cases were visitors who were suffering from infectious disease when they arrived.

CAUSES OF, and AGES AT DEATH
Of "Residents," whether occurring within or without the
District,
During the year 1922.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 3 years	3 and under 4 years	4 and under 5 years	5 and under 10 years	10 and under 15 years	15 and under 20 years	20 and under 35 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 years and upwards
All causes, certified	38	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	2	4	28
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Other Tubercular Diseases	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Cancer ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	6
Heart Disease	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	7
Bronchitis	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Pneumonia	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Appendicitis and Typhilitis	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Nephritis	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature Birth	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other deaths from violence	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Other Defined Diseases	9	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	6

CAUSES OF, and AGES AT DEATH

Of "Residents," whether occurring within or without the
District,
During the year 1923.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 3 years	3 and under 4 years	4 and under 5 years	5 and under 10 years	10 and under 15 years	15 and under 20 years	20 and under 35 years	35 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 years and upwards
All causes, certified	29	2	1	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	1	5	18
Influenza	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	1
Cancer, malignant dis.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Diabetes	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc,	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Heart Disease	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	2
Bronchitis	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	5
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
Premature Birth	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Other Defined Diseases	6	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5

CAUSES OF, and AGES AT DEATH

Of "Residents," whether occurring within or without the District,
During the year 1924.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 3 years	3 and under 4 years	4 and under 5 years	5 and under 10 years	10 and under 15 years	15 and under 20 years	20 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 years and upwards
All causes, certified	29	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	16
Influenza	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cancer, malignant dis.	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Rheumatic Fever	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Heart Disease	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bronchitis	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Deaths from violence	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other Defined Diseases	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Nett deaths from stated causes at various ages
under one year of age.

1921.										
CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes—										
Certified ..	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	2	5
Tubercular										
Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Immaturity ..	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	3
Intussusception ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
1922.										
All causes—										
Certified ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	2
Immaturity ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Broncho Pneumonia ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
1923.										
All causes —										
Certified ..	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
Immaturity ..	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
1924.										
All causes—										
Certified ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Heart failure ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1

RAINFALL.

For the years 1917—1924.

	Inches of Rain.								No. of days on which rainfall was registered.							
	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
January	2.00	2.20	3.14	1.80	2.33	4.59	1.29	1.81	15	14	15	14	16	24	15	17
February	1.08	.96	2.49	.66	.21	2.23	2.89	1.77	10	11	10	6	4	14	18	16
March	2.80	.97	1.85	.75	1.18	1.45	1.23	0.40	18	9	11	8	11	16	9	4
April	2.35	3.38	2.84	2.71	1.23	2.31	.81	2.05	15	10	16	21	11	18	8	12
May	.70	.72	.83	.98	1.01	1.14	1.09	3.61	6	4	6	10	10	5	12	14
June	4.41	2.02	1.27	1.37	.55	1.67	.80	2.22	10	9	11	5	4	11	9	13
July	3.79	6.01	2.56	2.94	.40	2.86	1.63	1.99	9	16	15	17	6	17	8	11
August	5.15	.58	2.00	1.82	2.48	1.29	1.94	2.48	19	4	10	14	10	12	11	16
September	1.85	4.38	.42	3.44	1.65	2.12	1.35	3.59	6	17	5	15	4	12	9	16
October	4.26	3.20	2.45	.31	.92	1.12	3.64	3.96	13	15	15	3	5	12	17	13
November	1.84	1.59	1.92	.81	1.74	1.33	3.01	1.23	10	8	17	6	8	11	12	12
December	1.50	4.06	3.99	3.18	1.89	1.40	2.51	2.37	9	20	23	29	16	16	16	12
Total	31.73	30.07	25.76	20.77	15.59	23.51	22.19	27.48	140	137	154	148	105	168	144	156

AVERAGE RAINFALL PER MONTH.

1917—2.64 inches.	Heaviest Rainfall in one day, June 18—2.25 inches.
1918—2.50	July 20—1.60
1919—2.14	Aug. 28—0.86
1920—1.73	July 21—0.75
1921—1.30	Sept. 11—1.25
1922—1.96	Jan. 19—0.72
1923—1.85	Nov. 8—0.86
1924—2.29	Oct. 21—1.60
Average Rainfall per year 1917—24	24.63 inches.

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, Etc.

1924.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as follows—

I have made frequent visits to the Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops in the Borough.

I found the Cowsheds kept in clean and good order and limewashed so as to meet the requirements of the Regulations. I also found the Dairies and Milkshops, as well as the various utensils and receptacles used, sweet and clean.

I have frequently visited and inspected the various herds of cows kept within this Borough, and have had no occasion to take any action regarding these visits, nor have any complaints been made to me.

The Common Lodging House is constantly under my notice. The place is clean and has been carried on to my satisfaction. No complaint has reached me with regard to it.

The Slaughter House has been frequently inspected and the regulations as to limewashing, cleansing and storing of Cattle have been observed and carried out to my satisfaction.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

RICHARD G. PALLANT.





